

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A chimeric, carboxy-terminal truncated hepatitis B virus nucleocapsid protein (HBc) is disclosed that contains an immunogen for inducing the production of antibodies to malarial proteins. An immunogenic malarial epitope is expressed between residues 78 and 79 of the HBc immunogenic loop sequence. The chimera preferably contains a malaria-specific T cell epitope and is preferably engineered for both enhanced stability of self-assembled particles and enhanced yield of those chimeric particles. Methods of making and using the chimeras are also disclosed.